



SITUATION REPORT #135



INCIDENT NAME: Walla Walla County COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND

DATE: December 28, 2020	TIME: 14:00 Information is updated at 2pm daily	MISSION #20-0265
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AFFECTED AREA: Walla Walla, Washington

CURRENT SITUATION: COVID-19 Surveillance, Monitoring & Case Investigation/Contact Tracing

2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Walla Walla County Residents -	Number
Total Confirmed Cases	3472
Recovered	2754
Deaths	33
In-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	15
Out-of-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	3
Tests Submitted –	Number
Total Negative Results (Walla Walla County) unable to update at DOH	32,192
Confirmed Cases by Community of Residence	Number
Burbank/Wallula	193
College Place	460
Dixie	15
Prescott	63
Touchet/Lowden	51
Waitsburg	54
Walla Walla	2636
Total	3472



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Confirmed Cases by Age		Number
Under 20		419
20-39		1412
40-59		1043
60-79		456
Over 80		142
Confirmed Cases by Gender		Number
Female		1486
Male		1986
TOTAL		3471

REGION 8 PHEPR:

Region 8 PHEPR staff is supporting WWCDCH from their EOC. Next call scheduled for 12/30 3:00-4:00

COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:

DCH in contact with positive cases, all close contacts on home isolation under daily symptom watch.

- DCH has hired a nurse and a Local Health Officer
- DCH Partnering with Population Health and Whitman College students on 'what to do while waiting for results of testing and how to reduce transmission risk'
- DCH working with businesses and Long-term Care facilities on containment of outbreaks which includes testing, contact tracing and educational information
- DCH and Providence agreement signed to provide isolation and quarantine facilities
- DCH has 600 doses of annual Flu Vaccine for all residents
- DCH attending Covid Vaccine planning meetings with DOH and Providence
- DCH 'Health Space' and CREST training completed for health data management
- DCH and BMAC continue to coordinate community mask distributions
- DCH increased staff capacity for case monitoring and contact tracing to be in compliance with variance applications
- DCH continues work surrounding behavioral health (mental health, substance use) and the coronavirus
- Providence Urgent Care Drive-thru testing operational for those with between 7am-6pm daily
- Walla Walla County Unified Command holding Key Stakeholder calls at 9 am Monday and Thursday
- DCH CD call flu, respiratory illness, COVID-19; next call will be Tuesday, December 29th
- DCH attending M-W-F DOH-Epi to Epi call for LHJ's
- DCH WIC Nutrition benefits continuing to ensure food security for families; completed by telephone consulting and online benefit issuance

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Walla Walla County Department of Community Health – Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response
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- The Walla Walla County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has downgraded to Level 2, Limited Operations, effective 05/28/2020 as of 0800.
- As of 03/24/2020 Walla Walla County Emergency Management continues to work remotely in order to limit exposure that might affect 911 and dispatch personnel who share the facility.
- The Walla Walla County Commissioners signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- The City of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended on 4/8/20.
- The City of College Place signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended 6/9/20.
- The City of Waitsburg signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/18/20.
- The Port of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/19/20, extended 5/28/20.
- The City of Prescott signed a Declaration of Emergency Effective 3/19/20.
- Walla Walla County remains in modified operations/access during regular business to certain county departments.
- Remains in a Unified Command with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health. Unified Command was established 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- Washington State Emergency Management is now requesting that all Tier 1 priorities be consolidated into a single order. Long Term Care facilities are now considered to be part of the Tier 1 priority, with further changes expected. Tier 2-4 priorities will be consolidated in a 2nd request. Next request period will be for the week beginning 01/04/21
- PPE tier allocation is changed beginning June 5, 2020, to allow Tier 1 requestors to build on hand supplies to levels sufficient for 14-21 days.

1. Outstanding Resource Requests

WA State Tracking Number	Request Date	Agency	Current Status
WA-2020121410157	12/14/20	WWCEM Tier 1 PPE Request	Delivered
WA-2020121410323	12/14/20	WWCEM Bulk BYD N95 Request	Delivered

December 27, 2020

2. Effective Strategies and Successes *(annotations for successes through the end of November archived to abbreviate this report)*

- DCH/PSMMC flu vaccine clinic at First Fruits; 700 doses administered.
- PSMMC/EMS planning effort to provide rapid testing to first responder community.
- Businesses have benefited from funding that has been distributed.
- First responders have gone through PSMCC testing site(s) according to new plans giving them priority for rapid testing.



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- VA survey out to staff regarding “will staff get vaccination” (300 have completed the survey with a majority expressing interest in getting the vaccine).
- PSMMC Lab Corp test turnaround is now 42 hours from arrival at Lab 12/27/20.
- PSMMC stated that previous experience gained in working with WWDCH and other partners on Flu vaccinations has had a significant positive impact on the current vaccine administration.
- Federal government passes continued COVID relief funding and individual assistance.

3. Risks and challenges

- COVID-19 Cases
 - Total Confirmed Cases: 3472
 - ❖ Recovered: 2754
 - ❖ Active: 685
 - Home Isolation: 670
 - ❖ Hospitalized: 18
 - 15 are Walla Walla County residents
 - 3 are Out of County residents
 - ❖ Deaths: 33
 - Washington State Penitentiary (included in numbers above):
 - ❖ 283 incarcerated active (pending update)
 - ❖ 35 staff active (pending update)
 - ❖ Mon 12/21 – 88; Tues 12/22 – 60; Wed 12/23 – 28; Thurs 12/24 – Sat 12/26 – 92 (60 WSP); Sun 12/27 – 20
 - Trends –
 - ❖ Some businesses with cases; DCH working with them to reduce transmissions
 - ❖ Still seeing cases related to holiday gatherings
 - ❖ Significant outbreak at the penitentiary
- Concern for rapid spread at congregated facilities.
- Cross-jurisdictional coordination with Umatilla County, OR, Benton/Franklin County, WA.
- Need to continue to monitor for behavioral health issues.
- Cold/flu season; respiratory symptoms may be confused with COVID and require workers to stay home.
- ‘COVID fatigue’ is very high with additional challenges presented by winter; more time inside, less daylight and sunshine, etc. Need to focus on community resilience.
- People moving indoors due to cold; more close contacts.
- Face coverings not being worn in private even though 95% report wearing masks when in public.
- People are still reporting to work with mild symptoms, or with symptomatic family members.
- Gatherings continue despite recommendations by DCH not to gather.
- Case investigation has been hampered by contacts not being cooperative with contact tracing team, some not answering phone calls from DCH.
- State is reporting a glove shortage; only order what you need.
- Concerns about effects of COVID vaccine.
- Lots of businesses struggling with restrictions.
- Challenges presented by distribution of COVID vaccine.
- Large call volumes with questions about when vaccines will available.



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- WWDCH is temporarily down one nurse for staffing
- 4. **Future operational plans (24, 48, and 72 hours out)**
 - Emergency Management is activated at **Level 2 – Limited Operations** (virtual, with no face-to-face contact).
 - WWEM acting as liaison to Washington National Guard (WNG).
 - WWEM continued collection of donations.
 - Coordination and communication with Unified Area Command State Emergency Operations Center (UAC SEOC). Unified Command SEOC conference call on Thursdays.
 - Monitor WebEOC Resource Tracker for delivery of supplies from Washington State to Walla Walla County.
 - WWEM submission of new resource requests on WebEOC.
 - WWEM distribution of resources.
 - DCH weekend staffing.
 - Weekly ESF6 Human Services weekly conference calls.
 - PSMMC maintaining daily sit reports.
 - EMS providers tracking PPE use with CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator.
 - Continue work with the media.
 - DCH case investigation/contact tracing of positive cases.
 - Reopening Business Workgroup & Business/Economy meeting every Thursday. Meeting this Thursday, 12/17/20 at 1 & 6 PM, is with state legislative representatives to discuss business concerns.
 - DCH and PSMMC are continuing to work with Washington State Department of Corrections for cases at Washington State Penitentiary. WNG is providing testing support.
 - Washington National Guard deployed to assist with testing at LTC facility to meet CMS requirements.
 - LTC facilities to continue to test based on CMS requirements to test if positivity rate is over 5%. Currently testing twice weekly. DCH working with LTC facilities to provide test kits and swabs.
 - PSMMC Urgent Care drive through testing operating with extended hours, 7AM – 6 PM.
 - DCH messaging emphasizing the importance of social distancing, masking, limiting gatherings. Will begin messaging around safety of COVID19 vaccine, encouraging residents to participate in getting their COVID immunizations.
 - PSMMC/DCH Vaccine Planning meeting Monday, December 14th, at 12 noon.
 - DOH Vaccine Planning Partner call Tuesday, December 15th.
 - PSMMC is now offering rapid testing for first responders through the Urgent Care drive through or College Place Express Care. Asymptomatic testing is available through drive through only.
 - REDi Healthcare Coalition:
 - Seeing spread following holiday gatherings impacting larger hospitals; some patient transfers occurring.
 - Eastern Washington situational awareness meetings every Tuesday from 3-3:45. Feedback from meeting is then provided to DOH.
 - Situational awareness response surveys Tuesdays/Friday 8 – 11 am. (Healthcare/providers). Information from surveys is communicated with DOH.
 - Weekly workgroup meeting Thursday's 3 – 4 PM.
 - REDi Healthcare Coalition reporting larger hospitals across Eastern Washington are at 10-15% capacity, 70-80% if ICU beds occupied.



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- Looking at crisis standards of care planning.
- Resources, staffing, and spacing are all 'tight.'
- DCH has a new Health Officer, Dr. Kaminsky.
- DCH has a nurse starting tomorrow; one nurse position still open.
- Reporting that travel during the Holidays has been about 25% less than normal.
- DCH working on phased guidance for groups
- PSMHC continues administering phase 1a (healthcare workers/EMS) COVID vaccine this week.
- Veterans Administration is receiving vaccine and will begin administering to staff and high-risk Veterans

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COMMUNICATIONS:

- **Social Media/PIO/Media Requests:** eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us

ANTICIPATED NEEDS: Contact tracing and disease investigation

WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Phone Assistance:

- Washington State Department of Health: [800-525-0127](tel:800-525-0127), press #
- Walla Walla County Community Health Information line: [509-524-2647](tel:509-524-2647)

Web Site Information:

- HOLIDAYS: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>
- DCH <https://www.covidwwc.com/walla-walla-county>
- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus
- Washington Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- CDC COVID-19 page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC travel notice: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>
- WHO page: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

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WA DOH LOFR; Klickitat LERC; Yakima LERC; Benton-Franklin LERC; Columbia Co. Director; REDi HCC, Columbia Co. LHJ, City of Walla Walla, City of College Place, City of Waitsburg, McMorris-Rogers Rep. Port of Walla Walla, and Health Office